

EIS001448

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Dear Ms. Dixon:

- 1 A repository for high-level radioactive waste (HLRW) at Yucca Mountain would be a serious mistake.

The Overview in your Draft EIS Summary refers to a "Proposed Action to construct, operate and monitor and eventually close a geologic repository". Close? And then what do you do with the accumulating HLRW? Leave it for our grandchildren to cope with?
- 2 The first step in dealing with HLRW is - stop producing it! Close all commercial reactors and all other sources of the waste planned for Yucca Mountain. Unless the source of HLRW is closed, you will "construct, operate, monitor and close" one repository and then repeat the process over and over and over.
- 3 Second, abandon all plans for a "central" repository. All radioactive waste should be stored at or as close to its source as possible. The source site is already contaminated. Do NOT contaminate additional land and water. Making industries and communities take responsibility for the waste they produced for profit or any other reason will hopefully make them more willing to cease production of HLRW and more careful in guarding it from leaks, terrorists or any other threat. Allowing them to have it hauled away and dumped/stored in someone else's backyard is unethical.
- 4... Third, transporting HLRW through 43 states for 30+ years will eventually result in accidents and release of radioactive contamination into the air, land and water along the routes. Your statistics claim there have been no releases of radiation into the environment from the shipments of the past 30 years. That is a meaningless statement because:
 1. The volume of shipments over the last 30 years is miniscule compared to what would be shipped over the next 30+ years. The increased number

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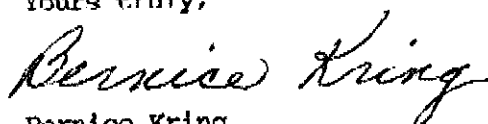
of shipments will produce accidents. Ask the mathematicians - or any serious gambler - about the odds.

2. The Department of Energy lies! The DOE is guilty of lies of commission and omission. When Hazel O'Leary was Energy Secretary she released information on secret radiation tests using children, hospital patients and prisoners through the 1940's. Now, Secretary Richardson is admitting that weapons plant workers were exposed to dangerous amounts of radiation as late as the 1960's. The DOE avoids admitting to anything too close to the current calendar date.

5 If Yucca Mountain were to open as a repository or if a "temporary" above-ground storage area were made available nearby (Nevada Test Site?), 50 years from now the DOE Secretary of 2050 would make another DOE-OOPS! announcement apologizing after the fact for the harm done when previously unreported (to the taxpaying public) accidents happened along the numerous routes to a Central HLRW Repository.

6 You know Yucca Mountain is not safe for storage of high-level radioactive waste. Earthquakes and water seepage at the site tell you that. Abandon the idea. Stop production of all HLRW. Store all HLRW at the point of origin.

Yours truly,



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